

Agricultural Development of the Hawaiian Islands.

(BY FRANKLIN AUSTIN.)

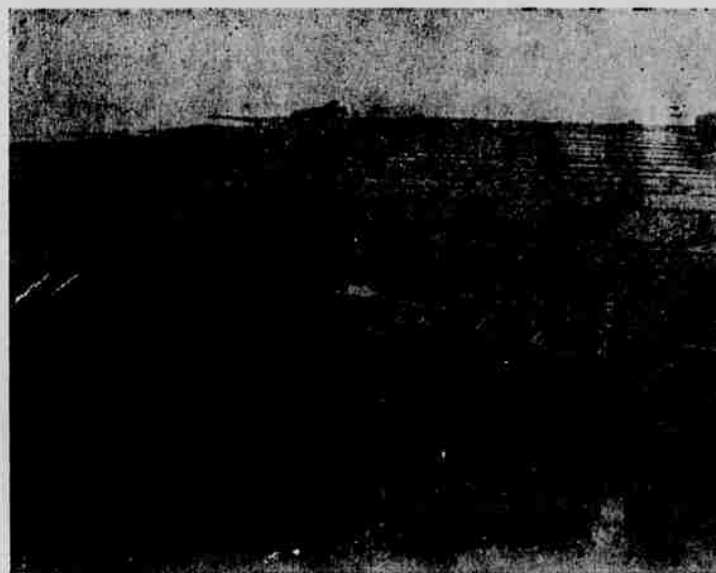
INTRODUCTION.

It is proposed under the title "History of the Agricultural Development of the Hawaiian Islands," to prepare a carefully written work upon the history of the sugar industry and other agricultural resources of these Islands. Such a work has never before been undertaken with anything like the detail or faithfulness to facts that I propose in the present work. All sugar men with whom I have talked concerning the work, agree that such a book will prove to be exceedingly valuable if care is taken in the gathering of material and it is compiled in such a manner as to be of interest to the general public, as well as to those interested in the planting of sugar cane and manufacture of sugar. I shall take great care in the preparation of the work to avoid too much technicality, yet it will be sufficiently so to be of value to planters.

The history of every plantation in the Islands will be written. It is a matter of fact that no two sugar estates are alike, although their lands may adjoin each other. Conditions of soil and climate are likely to vary almost within a mile and the success of a plantation depends in a most extraordinary degree upon the good judgment of its manager. This is, to be sure, true of any business, but it is ten fold more a factor of success in the sugar business than in any other line of industrial work. So great a factor, indeed, is it that successful managers are paid extraordinarily large salaries, yet these salaries are in no way out of proportion to the enormous responsibilities that fall upon the shoulders of the head of a sugar plantation.

The sugar industry was first introduced in Hawaii by Chinamen in a very small and crude way upon lands which they were permitted to occupy for the purpose of sufrance of the chiefs, as early as 1830. But the industry received its first impetus and official recognition by Kamehameha III in 1835, when Koloa plantation was started on Kauai by Ladd & Co., who were at that time the largest trading concern in the Islands. Major Hooper, one of the partners in Ladd & Co., was the promoter and manager of the enterprise. As this was before the mahele (distribution of lands,) Ladd & Co. held tenure to the land only by concession of the King and the native laborers who were then serfs had to be hired from the chiefs in the vicinity. In his diary, a copy of which is in my possession, Major Hooper recounts the trials and tribulations

in the attempt to make the natives work. It was only after he hit upon the plan of treating them as freedmen and paying each man who did good work a real (12½ cents) a day, in addition to the stipulated sum paid the chiefs, that he was enabled to get a satisfactory day's work out of them. It was the experience he had with native labor at Koloa

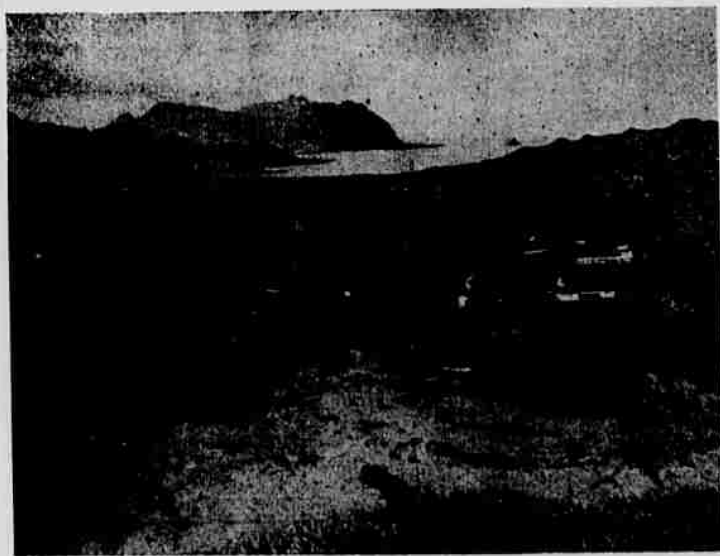


Rice Mill at Waiahole, property of Minister Lansing.

(Photo by Hanna.)

that prompted Major Hooper to urge upon Kamehameha III the wisdom of emancipating the serfs, which was effected in 1838.

The sugar industry received a very serious set back in 1843 through the failure of Ladd & Co., which was brought about by the repudiation by the government of the Belgian contract, which, by the way, was one



Ahuimanu Ranch and Dairy of Henry Macfarlane, Esq.

(Photo by Hanna.)



Rice Mill at Waiahole.

(Photo by Hanna.)